

[A METHOD FOR OPTIMIZING FOUNDRY CAPACITY]

Abstract

The invention provides a method and system for determining a production plan that includes a first step that determines the minimum number of manufacturing starts that are required to meet contractual obligations; and a second step which determines a production plan satisfying the minimum manufacturing starts together with other customer demands. More specifically, the invention presents a method of allocating production starts (e.g., wafer starts) in a manufacturing facility (e.g., wafer foundry) using a linear programming production planning system which performs a first stage of linear programming to satisfy only contractually mandated minimum production starts constraints followed by a second stage of linear programming to satisfy the additional constraints, once the minimum starts constraints are satisfied.